THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Merchant Shipping Sector is open to private sector and the services are provided based on the economic viability and commercial judgement of the entrepreneur. If any proposal from private sector to operate the services in the coastal sector is received, technical consideration are examined and approval accorded.

Some entrepreneurs have envinced interest to operate transport services between Madras and Nagappattinam sector. The Govt. will encourage such operations.

Damage to the National Highways in Tamil Nadu due to Flood

1906. SHRI T.M. VENKATACHALAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the length of National Highways damaged in Tamil Nadu due to rains and floods recently;

(b) the National Highways so affected;

(c) the fund required to repair the damaged Highways;

(d) whether Government have sanctioned any funds for the purpose so far; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) During rains/floods in December, 1996 damages have occured at several places over the total National Highways network of 1890 Kms. (excluding urban lengths) in Tamil Nadu.

(c) to (e) An amount of Rs. 2.00 Crore has already been released. In addition to this, it is proposed to sanction estimates amounting to nearly Rs. 5.00 Crore.

National Highway from Bangalore to Pondicherry

1907. SHRI T.M. VENKATACHALAM:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the long pending demand for National Highway from Bangalore to Pondicherry;

(b) whether Government propose to construct National Highway from Pondicherry to Krishnagiri which is already connected to Bangalore through National Highway;

(c) if so, whether survey has been ordered; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No such proposal has been received by the Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Pending National Highway Projects

1908. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many projects relating to expansion of National Highways from various States are pending before Government; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Several references for declaration of State roads as National Highways are pending for want of adequate funds.

(b) The details are given in the Statement.

Statement

Pending National Highway Projects by Shri Shiv Charan Singh

S. No.	STATE	NO. OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED	LENGTH (in Km.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9	4812
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	400
3.	Assam	1	178
4.	Bihar	6	1390
5.	Chandigarh	—	—
6.	Delhi	—	—
7.	Goa	3	101
8.	Gujarat	10	2510
9.	Haryana	5	932
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2	618
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	400
12.	Karnataka	14	4810
13.	Kerala	8	1301
14.	Madhya Pradesh	13	6492
15.	Maharashtra	11	4782
16.	Manipur	1	332
17.	Meghalaya	1	133
18.	Mizoram	3	441
19.	Nagaland	1	220
20.	Orissa	4	837
21.	Pondicherry	2	104
22.	Punjab	5	980
23.	Rajasthan	5	1709
24.	Sikkim	1	30
25.	Tamil Nadu	16	3355
26.	Tripura	1	135
27.	Uttar Pradesh	4	1856
28.	West Bengal	7	530
	TOTAL:	135	39388

Road-Cum-Rail Bridges on River Ganges

1909. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects for construction of road-cum-rail bridges on river Ganges are pending with Government;

(b) if so, details of each such project, State-wise and Union Territory-wise, with amount spent on each, date of commence of project with tentative period fixed for completion;

(c) whether Government propose to monitor each such project to ensure its timely completion to check its escalation in estimated cost; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.